EnviroNews

Compliance Tip
Review Your Waste Hauling Service

If you have managed to implement programs to reduce waste at your facility, you should also find the added benefit of reduced hauling fees. EPA advises that you review your hauling contract periodically to see if you are getting the service you need at the best price.

Tips for rebidding your hauling contract include:

- Considering whether to bid trash and recycling services together or separately
- Letting potential contractors review your operations before bidding
- Sending bid solicitations to three to five companies, including your current hauler
- Requiring a cap on yearly increases during the contract term
- Ensuring the ability to change the type and size of disposal containers, the number of pickups, and the time without penalty
- Not getting tied into a contract with automatic renewal

Adjusting hauling services to reflect the reduced volumes of waste can add up to tremendous savings through decreased hauler fees, avoided disposal costs, maximized recycling revenues, and lower equipment maintenance and costs.

Recycling Up – Trash Down

Americans are recycling more and throwing away less according to a new report released to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The United States recycled 32 percent of waste in 2005, this was comprised of 79 million tons, including composting. This represents a 2 percent increase from 2004 and a 16 percent increase from 1990 recycling data. The EPA has collected and reported on data going back to 1960 on the generation and disposal of waste.

State Praised for Environmentally Sensitive Development

Massachusetts received an award from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its 2006 National Awards for Smart Growth. The award winners were recognized for their innovative approaches to development that strengthen community identity and protect the environment.

As communities around the country look for ways to grow that protect and enhance their natural environments and create prosperity, many are turning to smart growth strategies. They are cleaning and reusing previously developed land; providing more housing and transportation choices; preserving critical natural areas; and developing vibrant places to live, work, shop and play. In addition to creating great communities these smart growth strategies also protect the quality of the air, water and land.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts received an award in **Overall Excellence**. The State created the Office of Commonwealth Development (OCD) to better coordinate state spending and policy decisions that influence where development happens, encourage innovative development locally, and make private investment in good projects easier.

The OCD uses financial incentives and outreach tools to ensure wise use of state tax dollars and to promote sound growth policies in the state's 351 communities. Better natural resource stewardship is a key motivation for OCD's smart growth efforts. For example OCD has taken approximately 35,000 acres of land and taken growth pressure off of natural lands and undeveloped sites.

Excerpted from EPA News Release, November 15, 2006

10 Holiday Gifts that Reduce Waste

(Thinking outside the box!)

Looking for ways to reduce waste this holiday season? Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has compiled a list of items you can give to friends, relatives, or co-workers that generate little or no waste.

1. Tablecloth and cloth napkins
2. Lunch box/bag
3. Refillable pen/pencil set
4. Stationery made from recycled paper
5. Seeds for spring planting
6. Reusable storage containers
7. Rechargeable alkaline batteries and charger
8. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs
9. Houseplant
10. Reusable party dishes

Some waste-reducing decorating ideas for the holidays:

- Use old wrapping paper to make origami ornaments
- Use old greeting cards for gift tags
- Use old jewelry as holiday decorations
- Make edible ornaments
- Place gifts in reusable, decorative tins, baskets, and bags

Highway Diesel Meeting EPA Standards

Surveys show that about 85 percent of highway diesel meets the Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) standards. This exceeds the 80 percent mandate. One hundred percent must meet the new standards by 2010.

EnviroQuestion

Question: Fluorescent bulbs last longer than regular bulbs by what ratio?

Answer in the next issue.

Quarter III Question: When were plastic grocery bags first introduced?

Answer: 1977

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For Your Information

Don't Top Off Your Gas Tank Help Protect The Environment and Save Money

Topping off your gas tank is bad for the environment and your wallet.

Here's why:

Topping off the gas tank can result in your paying for gasoline that is fed back into the station's tanks because your gas tank is full. The nozzle automatically clicks off when your gas tank is full. In areas of ozone non-attainment, gas station pumps are equipped with vapor recovery systems that feed back gas vapors into their tanks to prevent vapors from escaping into the air and contributing to air pollution.

You need extra room in your gas tank to allow the gasoline to expand. If you top off your tank the extra gas may evaporate into your vehicle's vapor collection system. That system may become fouled and will not work properly causing your vehicle to run poorly and have high gas emissions.

Gasoline vapors are harmful to breathe. Gasoline vapors contribute to bad ozone days and are a source of toxic air pollutants such as benzene. Evaporation from the spillage of gas from overfilling can occur, contributing to the air pollution problem. Remember you pay for the gas that evaporates or is spilled on the ground.

Topping off your gas tank may ruin the station's recovery system. Adding more gas after the nozzle has shut off can cause the station's vapor recovery system to operate improperly, this system, helps to reduce air emissions.

From EPA's webpage